

## **Washington State Department of Transportation - News**

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **WSDOT Working with Agencies Following Cement Grout Discharge into Forbes Creek near I-405**

KIRKLAND – On Tuesday, Aug. 22, the Washington State Department of Transportation notified the Department of Ecology and Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife about a discharge of concrete grout into Forbes Creek on I-405 in Kirkland. WSDOT and its contractor immediately stopped grouting activities at the I-405 Kirkland Nickel construction project site and began an investigation.

WSDOT is following a clean-up plan, developed in close collaboration with the Department of Ecology, Department of Fish and Wildlife, and City of Kirkland, that includes removing all grout material from stream, water quality sampling, analyses and monitoring.

“We take our environmental responsibilities very seriously,” said Kim Henry, WSDOT project director. “We work hard to construct our projects with as little disruption to the surrounding environment. When a problem occurs, we coordinate with the appropriate authorities immediately to conduct a cleanup, and review our procedures to make sure it doesn’t happen again.”

While building a retaining wall on the west side of the highway, a large “soil nail,” used to stabilize ground when constructing structures, was driven into a culvert pipe that carries Forbes Creek under I-405. When crews began injecting concrete grout around the nail to secure it in place, some of the grout flowed into the damaged pipe and into the creek. There have been no fish observed in this section of the stream channel since clean-up activities began.

WSDOT is closely monitoring water quality during the cleanup activities, which are proceeding quickly and efficiently. The clean-up is anticipated to be finished Saturday, August 26<sup>th</sup>.

For more project information, please visit [www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/KirklandNickelStage1](http://www.wsdot.wa.gov/Projects/i405/KirklandNickelStage1). To sign up for e-mail updates on this and other I-405 projects, send an e-mail to [lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov) with “subscribe i-405” in the body of the e-mail.

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